1489

A

LETTER

TO THE

EARL OF CARLISLE,

FROM

WILLIAM EDEN, Esq.

ON THE

REPRESENTATIONS OF IRELAND,

RESPECTING A

FREE TRADE.

Sic nos in luce timemus
Interdum, nihilo quæ sunt metuenda magis, quam
Quæ pueri in tenebris pavitant, finguntque futura.
Hunc igitur terrorem animi, tenebrasque necesse est,
Non radii solis, nec lucida tela diei
Discutiant, sed Naturæ species, ratioque.

LUCRET. 6.

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BRITISH MUSEUM

A

LETTER, &c.

Greenwich, Nov. 4, 1779.

My Lord,

HAVING had leiſure to advert to the printed accounts of ſome occurrences which have lately engaged the public attention; I ſhould think that I had very imperfectly executed my firſt propoſition, of ſtating to your Lordſhip "the ſincere ſentiments of a plain mind upon "things as they are," if I were to keep back the firſt and genuine ideas which occur to me reſpecting the recent applications of the Iriſh Parliament for a free trade. I proceed, however, in this new taſk, more deſtitute of competent information, if poſſible, than your Lordſhip has thus far found me; but my pen will at leaſt be guided by a ſimilar anxiety to promote candid recollection, and fair enquiry.

And here too we muſt diveſt ourſelves of all prejudices contracted from the popular altercations of the day; we muſt endeavour to enter upon the ſubject before us with as much benevolence, and as little partiality, as may be compatible with the juſt intereſts of the ſociety to which we belong.—The wiſh, indeed, of all good and prudent men, both in Great Britain

and in Ireland, muſt be, to ſhun with abhorrence all the contagious delirium incident to national queſtions, and to promote only that conſtitutional warmth, which may act kindly, and with an invigorating influence, in both kingdoms.

It is not the ſtrict policy of a former century, or the accidental diſtreſs of the preſent hour; it is not the ſuppoſed procraſtination of a reaſonable hope, or the harſh tone of a precipitate demand; it is not an imaginary neglect on the one hand, or an urgent eagerneſs on the other, which ſhould call forth between two countries connected together by the ties of ſovereignty, language, law, blood, intereſts, and ſituation, any unbecoming expreſſion, or any ungenerous ſentiment.—A kind and manly confidence in the equity and wiſdom of Great Britain ſhould regulate the expectations of Ireland; a due perſuaſion that Ireland is incapable of unworthy motives, or unreaſonable wiſhes, ſhould preſide over the deliberations of Great Britain.—Haſty inferences, and deciſive aſſertions, are fit only for diſputants who do not ſeek fair diſcuſſion, and cannot or will not underſtand each other: —The reſpective intereſts of Great Britain and Ireland ſhould be conſidered in a very different tone and temper; without paſſion, but with earneſtneſs; without precipitation, but with all practicable diſpatch. The diſtreſs of Ireland

(by

(by whatever circumſtances occaſioned) exiſts and operates; Great Britain cannot heſitate to give relief; the principle wing of her buildings is in danger; it is for the ſafety and ſtrength of the great center-edifice, that every part ſhould be diligently examined, and ſufficiently repaired.

It is an indiſputable and undiſputed fact, that there has prevailed through the times in which we live, a voluntary and warm-hearted anxiety in this country, to expreſs her ſenſe of the affectionate conduct of Ireland. It would be ſuperfluous to refer your Lordſhip to the various acts of parliament, made in this diſpoſition, during the laſt five years; they were numerous, but have not had the beneficial effects which were meant:——

Nam neque chorda ſonum reddit, quem vult manus et mens,
Poſcentique gravem perſæpe remittit acutum.

The growing diſtreſſes of Ireland have overpowered the endeavours of Great Britain to avert them; and we are now told that "nothing "ſhort of a free trade" can give relief!

It was wiſdom in the Iriſh Parliament to chuſe an undefined expreſſion upon a ſubject ſo complicated and extenſive in all its connections and

and conſequences. The whole conſideration is now opened to both kingdoms, and it is the intereſt of both to come to an early, kind, and efficient concluſion.

It is poſſible that there may be many individuals in both kingdoms, who know as little of this ſubject as I do; and I freely own that the doubts and difficulties which the firſt view of it ſuggeſts to my mind, are ſuch as preclude all farther reaſonings without fuller information. The queſtions to be aſked are indeed numerous, nice, and intricate. Theoretical deductions will not aſſiſt us; trading eſtabliſhments, regulations of commerce, and the whole ſyſtem of revenue, are involved in the propoſition. A principal ſpring or wheel of a complicated clock-work may be deranged; but to turn the key round upon the inſtant with violence, would tend only to demoliſh all the component parts; if we value the machine, we ſhould previouſly examine it.—When I ſtate my reaſonings to your Lordſhip, I ſhall be better underſtood.

I do not wiſh to carry back your attention to the days of Prince Fitz-Murchard or Earl Strongbow. It would give me little concern if the hiſtories left by Giraldus Cambrenſis, Hoveden, and even Matthew Paris, had been buried with the hiſtorians;—nor do I feel anxious

anxious to bring to light the ancient ſtatutes and ordinances of Henry the Third, Edward the Firſt, and other early reigns, ſuppoſed to be made for the purpoſe of binding Ireland. The antiquated diſcuſſions upon the fact of conqueſt; at what particular point the rights of the conqueror are reſtricted by the laws of nature and reaſon; whether the principle of ſubjugation can extend to any exorbitancy of power; and whether implied acquieſcence conſtitutes a poſitive acceptance; are queſtions little calculated at any period of our hiſtory to promote any good purpoſe to either kingdom.

It is a political truth more material to be known, that happineſs and ſtrength ſhould be extended through the conſtituent parts of an empire, as far as wiſe and beneficent laws can operate to that effect. It would next be eaſy to ſhew, that public happineſs and ſtrength are diffuſed in proportion to the plenty and convenience with which not only the natural wants of a people are ſupplied, but ſuch adventitious ones as are ſuperinduced by univerſal habit and induſtry; when this end is not attained to a certain degree, an empire may indeed exiſt, and may increaſe in numbers, but it will grow, like an unwieldy body, liable to dangerous and acute humours.

Whatever

Whatever may have been the ſyſtem of government adopted or accepted by Ireland, the recent and moſt intereſting fact is, that ſhe now complains of ſome diſtreſſes which ſhe conceives to reſult from that ſyſtem. Thoſe diſtreſſes are poſſibly no more than may have reſulted from temporary cauſes;—from the late rebellion within the colonies, or from the calamities incident to war; but we know perfectly, that the complaint is founded in real ſufferings. The firſt inference which would ariſe from this fact in any mind reaſoning kindly towards a part of the empire, and diſcreetly in reſpect to the whole, is, that the Iriſh, as fellow-ſubjects, are entitled to every relief compatible with the general intereſts. Still, however, we decide without preciſion, and muſt draw the circumſtances of the two countries to a nearer compariſon, if we mean to form any uſeful concluſion.

The moſt obvious remark which preſents itſelf is, that Ireland, poſſeſſing, on a ſmaller ſcale, nearly all the natural advantages of Great Britain, and having, beſides, in point of commerce, ſome others peculiar to her ſituation towards the prevailing winds, has yet in all ages been comparatively poor and diſtreſſed.

The reaſons why this phænomenon has ſo long exiſted, and why Ireland has not hitherto availed

availed herſelf of the bleſſings which God and nature ſeem to hold forth with a liberal hand, are variouſly aſſigned ; and as they have generally received ſome colour from popular and occaſional appearances, there is cauſe to ſuſpect that they do not reach the origin of the evil.

I have ſeen it ſomewhere remarked, that the madneſs of Ajax, who took a flock of ſheep for his enemies, would be the wiſdom of Ireland ; and that a principal cauſe of the poverty of the latter was the ſyſtem of her landlords, who, in defiance of the practice and prudence of all other nations, had preferred paſturage to tillage, and, by reſtraining the induſtry of the tenants, had reduced numberleſs families to the alternative of either leaving the kingdom or ſtrolling about in beggary. Sir William Temple attributed the poverty and diſtreſs of Ireland to her plenty and ſuperabundance. In another part of his works he takes notice, that the Dutch had turned over to the Danes the patriarchal trade of cow-keeping, for ſupplying them with lean cattle, and to the Polanders that of plowmen, for growing corn for their uſe, in order to reſerve their own lands and their own people for better and more uſeful employments. Such, in fact, may be the ſituation of the nations alluded to, but perhaps it is leſs the work of policy than of local circumſtances. At the ſame time, if we even

ſhould admit that a country which addicts itſelf chiefly to grazing, or even to grazing and agriculture, will generally be poor, we do not deſcribe the caſe of Ireland: it has not been the ſyſtem of the Iriſh merely to ſupport herdſmen and ſhepherds by grazing, nor to raiſe cattle to be ſent in flocks to diſtant countries; but they employ many uſeful citizens in a variety of manufactures, to which the ſimple occupations firſt alluded to furniſh only the materials. It is ſtill, however, to be remembered, that the mere neceſſaries of life are raiſed by the labour of a very ſmall proportion of people; artificial wants and habitual luxuries muſt be introduced, to occupy thoſe in manufactures who are not engaged in agriculture, and to promote a general induſtry, interchange, and circulation through the ſtate.

Dean Swift, who aſcribed the poverty of his country to a multiplicity of cauſes, and amongſt others, to a radical error in the whole ſyſtem of Iriſh leaſes, to the avarice of landlords in drawing ſevere rents, and to the undue encouragement of grazing, admitted alſo that there was a want of an induſtrious diſpoſition among the people; but he attributed that want to the reſtraints laid upon their commerce, and to the diſcouragement of manufactures, which had made them mere hewers of wood, and drawers of water, to their neighbours. Under this impreſſion,

preſſion, he was wont to quote a verſe from the book of Exodus :—" Ye are idle, ye are idle, " cried Pharaoh unto the children of Iſrael; go " therefore now and work; for there ſhall no " ſtraw be given you, yet ſhall ye deliver the " tale of bricks."

It is a ſimilar reaſoning which has produced the application now before us. And if in our own days we were to ſtate to an Iriſh gentleman the long continued poverty and idleneſs which have prevailed over ſo large a proportion of his countrymen, he would probably anſwer,

" All this may be true; but the monopo- " lizing ſpirit of our Siſter Kingdom is the " cauſe of it. That ſpirit exerciſing itſelf " upon Ireland in a very early ſtate of her ci- " vilization, nipped her diſpoſition to induſtry, " and indeed made it impoſſible for her to be- " come induſtrious. In the very infancy of " our country, and whilſt we were contenting " ourſelves with the exportations and ſale of " our cattle, you made an act (*b*) to prohibit " thoſe exportations. We next gave our at- " tention to the increaſe of our ſheep, in order " to export wool; but you forthwith (*c*) pro- " hibited the exportation of wool, and made it

(*b*) 8 Eliz. chap. 3. (*c*) 13 and 14 Car. II. c. 18.

" ſubject

" ſubject to forfeiture. We then endeavoured " to employ and ſupport ourſelves by ſalting " proviſions for ſale; but you immediately (*d*) " refuſed them admittance into England, in " order to increaſe the rents of your lands, " though you thereby increaſed the wages of " your labourers. We next began a woollen " manufacture; but it was no ſooner eſtabliſhed " than deſtroyed; for you prohibited (*e*) the " exportation of manufactured woollens to any " other place than England and Wales: and " this prohibition alone is reported to have " forced 20,000 manufacturers out of the " kingdom.

" The navigation Act (*f*) had unwittingly " but kindly permitted all commodities to be " imported into Ireland, upon the ſame terms " as into England: but by an act (*g*) paſſed " three years afterwards, the exportation of " any goods from Ireland into any of the Plan- " tations was prohibited: and as if that had " not ſufficiently crippled the benefits given " by the Navigation Act, we were ſoon (*h*) after-

(*d*) 18 Car. II. cap. 2.
(*e*) 10 and 11 William III. cap. 10.
(*f*) 12 Car. II. cap. 18. (*g*) 15 Car. II. cap. 7.
(*h*) 2 Car. II. cap. 26.

" wards

" wards forbid to import any of the enume-
" rated commodities from the Plantations in-
" to Ireland. This reſtriction too was much
" enforced by ſubſequent acts, and the liſt of
" enumerated goods was much increaſed.—I
" ſay nothing of your regulations reſpecting
" glaſs, hops, ſail-cloth, &c. and other infe-
" rior barriers, and obſtructions to our com-
" merce: we ſubſiſted under all this, and
" under a drain alſo, which has gradually in-
" creaſed upon us, by remittances to our own
" abſentees, Engliſh mortgagees, government
" annuitants, and other extra-commercial
" purpoſes, to the amount of half a million
" ſterling annually. And though we retained
" no trade but in linen and proviſions, the
" latter has been under a three years prohibi-
" tion, during which period we loſt the prin-
" cipal market for our own beef, though three-
" fourths of our people were graziers. Many
" of us indeed carried on a clandeſtine trade,
" and it was eſſential to our ſupport; but that
" too has been lately checked, firſt by the re-
" volt of the Colonies, and now by the war
" with France and Spain.

" Our annual remittances and debts to
" Great Britain now increaſe with our diſ-
" treſſes; our ſubſcriptions for loans have
" been lately filled from Great Britain; our
" eſtates, when ſold, are purchaſed by Eng-
" liſhmen;

" liſhmen; our leaſes, when they expire, are
" raiſed by abſentees; the drain is become
" greater than all our means can ſupply; our
" manufacturers find little demand for their
" work, the farmers ſell their produce with
" difficulty; our land rents indeed are eſti-
" mated at near three millions ſterling, but our
" land-holders will ſoon be obliged to reduce
" them. We allow that ſeveral of your re-
" ſtrictions upon us have lately been much
" ſoftened or modified, but the want of an
" annual profit in our intercourſe with Great
" Britain equal to our remittances ſtill pre-
" vails, and is every hour more felt. By the
" unfortunate ſituation of the Colonies, we
" have loſt even our old refuge in emigrations.
" —After having for many years taken Britiſh
" manufactures, to the annual amount of per-
" haps two millions ſterling, we are for the
" preſent reduced to non-importation agree-
" ments, as a meaſure, not of expediency, but
" of neceſſity. It would have ſuited the
" generoſity of our feelings, and the affec-
" tion which we bear towards you, to have
" made our repreſentations in better and
" more peaceable times; but you ſee that
" our circumſtances are urgent, and that your
" recent indulgencies are inſufficient. We
" deſire therefore a free trade, otherwiſe our
" diſtreſſes muſt, if poſſible, increaſe, and the
" conveniency of our ports will continue of

" no

" no more uſe to us, than a beautiful proſpect
" to a man ſhut up in a dungeon."

There is nothing in the imaginary detail here offered to your Lordſhip, which has not been ſtated to you in better words, as often as you have had occaſion to converſe with friends who wiſh warmly towards Ireland, and are moderately acquainted with the principal features in her ſituation; and as every complaint of human hardſhip is entitled either to a refutation, or to ſome redreſs, we are next to conſider what anſwer might be given to the allegations now before us.

Believing, as I do, that in theſe days of general ſcience and liberal diſquiſition, the reſpectable and leading men in this kingdom (of which deſcription there is a large proportion), are unlikely to incloſe themſelves within the ruſty and rugged armour of Monopoly, I think it poſſible that their firſt impreſſions might be to the following effect:

" Many of the regulations here complained
" of relate to England's internal commerce,
" and may be matters of regret to Ireland,
" but cannot afford any juſt cauſe of com-
" plaint:—other circumſtances may be admit-
" ted, to the extent ſtated; but we ſhould heſi-
" tate before we admit the cauſes to which
" they

" they are aſcribed : we might examine, for
" inſtance, merely as a queſtion of commerce,
" whether before and during the late embargo
" on the uſual exports of proviſions to France
" and Spain in time of peace, more extenſive,
" ſafe, and profitable markets were not opened
" and encouraged; by which the price of the
" commodity, and freight, and the quantity
" of ſpecie were increaſed.—The emigrations
" too which are alluded to, as well as ſome
" other effects of national diſtreſs, were occa-
" ſioned, perhaps, by the increaſe and injudi-
" cious modes of land-rents, which were
" thought grievous ſixty years ago, and have
" been generally advanced near one-third
" ſince.—With reſpect to the larger queſtion;
" we will neither criminate nor juſtify the
" ſyſtem of our anceſtors. The fact is, that,
" aided by their general ſyſtem and progreſſive
" induſtry, the commerce of Great Britain has
" flouriſhed, and continues to flouriſh. We
" are ſorry that her Siſter Kingdom has not
" kept pace with her. That ſhe has not done
" ſo, is perhaps owing chiefly to the frequent
" interference of civil diſtractions, and to
" other cuaſes ſo forcibly deſcribed by Dean
" Swift, as bearing hard on the induſtry of
" the middle and lower claſſes of the people.
" We have already given proofs of our con-
" viction, that our intereſts are in a great de-
" gree mutual. We wiſh that Ireland may be

" aſſiſted,

" aſſiſted, but we deſire, that before proceed-
" ings are adopted to reverſe all the ſyſtem pur-
" ſued by wiſe ſtateſmen during two centuries,
" due information may be obtained, and due
" diſcretion exerciſed. In the general anxiety
" to aſſiſt Ireland, it muſt appear to be as little
" her intereſt as ours, to give any ſudden ſhock
" or precipitate revulſion to the courſe of
" Britiſh trade, commerce, and revenue. Let
" the legiſlatures of the two countries act with
" diſpatch, but let that diſpatch be guided by
" a previous and competent knowledge of all
" the operative and intereſting circumſtances!

" It is not poſſible, in the nature of com-
" merce, to decide, without a full inveſtiga-
" tion of the ſubject, what can be meant, or
" ought to be meant, by a free trade; and till
" the propoſition has been diſcuſſed and aſcer-
" tained, between well informed and well in-
" tentioned men of the reſpective countries, it
" muſt vary in every point of view that we can
" place it.

" 1. Do the people of Ireland underſtand,
" by what they aſk, the power of exporting
" their own produce to any foreign country,
" wherever they can find the beſt market, ex-
" cept only the countries which may at any
" time be at war with their Sovereign?

" 2. Do they imply the power of drawing " ſuch goods and conſumable commodities as " they may want, from any country where " they may beſt purchaſe them ?

" 3. Do they wiſh to be allowed a com- " merce to North America, the Weſt Indies, " and Africa, free from the reſtraints to which " it was left ſubject when the 18th of his pre- " ſent Majeſty extended their power of export- " ation ?

" 4. Do they mean to aſk a free trade to " Great Britain, their manufactures and pro- " duce, when imported into this country, be- " ing ſubject to no other duties than the like " manufactures and produce of our own ?

" 5. Do they mean a repeal of particular " reſtrictions, which the relative circumſtances " of the two countries may, in their opinion, " no longer make requiſite ?

" Under all or any of theſe propoſitions, " there are many points of nice and difficult " conſideration. What regulations or burdens " are meant to be propoſed, analogous to " what now prevail, in regard to the manu- " factures, imports, and exports of Great " Britain ? What prohibitions reſpecting the " export of certain raw materials ? What ar-

" rangements

" rangements in reſpect to our diſtant poſſeſ-
" ſions and factories ? Other ſubjects of diſ-
" cuſſion will ariſe, and ſome upon nice and
" intricate points of commerce, involved as it
" happens to be, in conſiderations of revenue,
" and in the maintenance of the public ex-
" pence. We do not know, that emulation
" among manufacturers and merchants is miſ-
" chievous either to them or to the ſtate: We
" do not know that the enterpriſing induſtry
" and increaſing wealth of Lancaſhire have
" tended to obſtruct, inſtead of promoting,
" thoſe of Yorkſhire: We do not know that
" the flouriſhing of Glaſgow in her commerce,
" is any detriment either to Liverpool or
" Briſtol: We do not know that the proſperity
" of the ſtaple manufacture of Ireland has
" leſſened the advantages of a ſimilar manu-
" facture in Scotland. We admit at leaſt that
" ſuch competitions furniſh employment, pro-
" duce riches, and encourage population for
" the general happineſs and ſtrength of the
" empire; and we truſt that there will be de-
" mand and trade enough in the world for the
" induſtry of us all: But we muſt repeat, that
" if unadviſed meaſures are adopted, they are
" likely to affect the proſperity of the Britiſh
" commerce, without promoting that of Ire-
" land."

If

If it ſhould be the diſpoſition of the reſpectable and leading men of Great Britain to feel ſuch ſentiments and to hold ſuch language, it is beyond a doubt that much farther information might be collected from them ; and it ſeems impracticable to advance without their aid and advice.

There are many theorems of trade which are plauſible on paper, yet it may be impoſſible for trading nations to adopt them. Maxims being too narrow to embrace all the combinations of human events, political operations muſt often be influenced by circumſtances.

It is an old, but not the leſs fallible principle of ſtate-policy, that whoever is the cauſe of another's advancement, contributes to his own diminution. The oppoſite poſition is oftner applicable to the reſpective ſituations of merchants and mercantile bodies, or of commercial nations. It is now well underſtood that the flouriſhing of neighbouring nations in their trade is to our advantage, and that if we could extinguiſh their induſtry and manufactures, our own would languiſh from the want of emulation and interchange. This reaſoning is, or ought to be, ſtill better underſtood with reſpect to different parts of the ſame empire.

If

If we are capable of looking beyond the extent of a ſingle ſhop-board, we cannot conſider the Iriſh as rivals in intereſt, even though they ſhould become our aſſociates in lucrative purſuits. Mr. Davenant, who had ſome jealouſies reſpecting their progreſs in particular branches of trade, and who, in the cloſe of the laſt century, recommended the bill to prevent the export of their woollen manufactures, was ſtill extremely doubtful as to his own reaſonings, and appears to have admitted a poſition current in the ſpeculations of thoſe days, "that the "*lucrum ceſſans* of Ireland is the *damnum* "*emergens* of England." Sir M. Decker, who wrote in a ſubſequent period, and upon ſome points with ſingular ability, was clearly of opinion, that the reſtraints on the Iriſh woollens contributed, in their effect, to diminiſh the foreign trade of Great Britain. He deſcribes monopolies as a ſpecies of trade-tyranny, whereby the many are oppreſſed for the gain and good pleaſure of a few:——— "Never yet (he obſerves) was a monopo- "lized trade extended to the degree of a free "one."———"We, in our abundant wiſ- "dom, pay nearly all the charges of Govern- "ment, whilſt large claſſes of our fellow- "ſubjects are made unable to contribute more "than a trifle to the general ſupport."——— "They exiſt, indeed, under the protection of

"fleets

" fleets which coſt them not a doit; we con-
" trive to ſtarve them without expence, and our-
" ſelves with expence; we drive one part of our
" people out of trade by monopolies, and the
" other by taxes. We bleed ourſelves almoſt
" to death, and think to recruit our ſpirits by
" devouring millions of famiſhed fellow-ſub-
" jects: thus, by exceſs of cunning, we make
" the ruin general."

There is a modern anecdote of a Dutchman, who was employed to ſettle the woollen manufacture at Abbeville, and ſtipulated that no work of the ſame kind ſhould be carried on within thirty leagues. This might help to introduce and give ſtability to an uſeful and expenſive manufacture, ſuch as in the event that of Abbeville has proved. When, however, the advantages are once ſettled, and the art in queſtion generally known, ſuch a monopoly may indeed give a perſonal advantage, but it muſt operate to the detriment of the whole circle which is ſwept by its radius. Particular merchants or manufacturers, as well as particular diſtricts, may, as in the inſtance juſt mentioned, derive a reaſonable advantage from the excluſive poſſeſſion of new branches of trade; but when thoſe branches have fairly taken root, ſuch advantages bear hard on other merchants,

manufacturers,

manufacturers, and diſtricts, and operate powerfully againſt general emulation, and the intereſts both of commerce and of the ſtate. It ſeems demonſtrable, that the export of native manufactured commodities from any one part of the King's dominions, muſt be advantageous to the whole, whenever the burdens and duties are ſo regulated as to leave no excluſive advantage; for that again would operate as a monopoly.

Subject to the laſt remark, it is farther demonſtrable, that Great Britain loſes whenever Ireland is deprived of any reaſonable gain.—And with reſpect to the ſituation of the latter for the weſtern navigation, we know that it is the intereſt of a dominion to carry on her commerce, from whatever corner ſhe can conduct it to the beſt advantage; and it would be thought a groſs abſurdity in the City of London, if becauſe Briſtol is ſo ſituated as to have an advantage in the Iriſh trade, the former ſhould deſire to have the port of the latter ſhut up.

In all theſe reaſonings, the commercial and political intereſts are inſeparably blended. When the liberty of commerce is unequally enjoyed, one part of an empire may be in danger of becoming a burden to the other. An increaſe of ſupport in aid of the common exertions, might

in

in courſe of time reſult to Ireland from the advancement of her trade, and from the produce of duties, analagous to thoſe of Great Britain.

It is ſometimes found, that a liberty to export manufactures, increaſes the produce of raw materials beyond the demand of the particular manufacture; and from the experience of the linen trade, it might be doubted whether leſs woollen yarn would be exported to Great Britain by Ireland, if the export of manufactured woollens were leſs reſtrained; in which caſe the ſmuggling of raw wool to the continent of Europe might be checked. It is ſaid that, the wool of the ſouthern nations being tender, and that of the northern countries being harſh, it is of great importance to both to obtain Britiſh or Iriſh wool, which, like a middle quality, unites equally with the two extremes, and produces an excellent cloth, that rivals our own.—It is the computation of many diſintereſted writers on this ſubject, that one pack of Iriſh wool works up two packs of French wool, which would not otherwiſe be ſaleable; and Sir M. Decker labours much to ſhew that the benefit reſulting to England, by every pack of wool manufactured in Ireland, inſtead of being run to France, amounts to fifty-ſix pounds ſterling; which indeed he founds upon an eſtimate, that one-third of what Ireland gets centers at laſt in Great

Great Britain. It muſt ſtill be obſerved, that no extent of the woollen manufacture can be expected to prevent entirely the exportation of the raw materials, the demand for which is ſuch as to elude all the contrivances of law, and all the vigilance of coaſt-officers even in Great Britain; and this is analogous to a remark of Mr. Locke's, that "it is death in Spain to "export money, and yet they who furniſh all "the world with gold and ſilver, have leaſt of "it among themſelves; trade fetches it away "from that lazy and indigent people, notwith-"ſtanding all their artificial and forced contri-"vances to keep it there; it follows trade "againſt the rigour of their laws, and their "want of foreign commodities makes it openly "be carried out at noon day."

I muſt however again obſerve to your Lord-ſhip, that all theſe theorems of trade, however plauſible they may appear on paper, muſt be received ſubject to much previous examination, and a diligent diſcuſſion of all collateral circumſtances. We are not to proced with that ſhort-ſighted wiſdom which may enable us to ſhun the mere difficulty of a day; ſtill leſs are we, upon a ſudden outcry, which like other commercial complaints may be fallacious or ill-founded, to make a ſudden revolution in all the practical ſyſtem of our trade; and upon the ſpur of a moment to overturn a plan of commerce and revenue which has been the work of ages.

We are to proceed upon the principle, that what we are to give ſhall be for the good of the whole: Ireland is a jewel to our crown, and not a thorn in our ſide. The point is, to know what ſolid aſſiſtance can be given, and in what form it can beſt be given. When men talk of an union to be completed between two great nations, as the cure of all their ills, they talk raſhly, and like the ſtate empiric deſcribed to your Lordſhip in my firſt letter. The caſe of Scotland was different in every point of view, and the benefits reſulting to her by the act of union do not apply to the preſent conſideration. There can be little doubt, that, in the preſent inſtance, the ſeparate legiſlatures of the two countries are fully equal to all the difficulty:—we ſhall ſufficiently know, from a cordial and temperate communication with Ireland herſelf, what ſpecific meaſures will be of ſervice to her: we ſhall know too, from the information to be collected at home, what meaſures may be adopted with a due regard to the general intereſts of commerce. We are not to ſubject ourſelves to the remark left by Dean Swift, who ſays, that in his time, when any thing kind had been intended towards Ireland, ſhe was invariably treated like a ſick lady, who has phyſic ſent by doctors at a diſtance, ſtrangers to her conſtitution and the nature of her diſeaſe.

It may even deſerve enquiry, whether the unqualified grant of every thing that human ingenuity can bring within the deſcription of a free

free trade, would have the effects expected, or convey the relief which is wanted and intended. It was once ſuppoſed, that becauſe the importation of Iriſh cattle into England had been prohibited, with a view to advance the rents of Engliſh landlords, and the intereſts of the feeding countries, the ſuſpenſion of that meaſure might be of uſe to Ireland: this was accordingly tried (and nearly within our memory); but it was a matter of great offence to many of the Iriſh inhabitants, who reſiſted the exportation; few cattle, therefore, were brought to Great Britain, and thoſe were chiefly lean.

We ſhould recollect, that though Ireland has at all times had full liberty to manufacture goods for her own conſumption, the conſumers have hitherto found it eaſier to purchaſe from England many articles both of luxury and convenience, than to make them at home. That jealouſy muſt be very lively indeed, which, contemplating this circumſtance, can derive diſquietude from ſuch reaſonings, as that a people ſhould ſuddenly run away with an extenſive commerce, becauſe they are admitted to a participation of its advantages.

The change is more difficult from indolence to induſtry, than it is from labour to eaſe; and it is forcibly obſerved by Mr. Hume, that "when "one nation has got the ſtart of another in a "trade, it is very difficult for the latter to gain "the ground which ſhe has loſt, becauſe of the "ſuperior induſtry and ſkill of the former, and "the

" the greater ſtock of which its merchants are " poſſeſſed, and which enables them to trade " for ſo much ſmaller profits."

Amidſt the difficulties which time, and the foſtering attention of this country, alone can enable Ireland to overcome, it deſerves remark, that ſhe has little coal, is ill provided with wood, and is alſo without inland navigations.—In ſhort, the conſtitution and eſtabliſhment of a flouriſhing commerce imply a well-regulated order through the nation, a ſteady and effective police, habits of docility and induſtry, ſkill in manufactures, and large capitals in trade; all which can be the reſult only of a continued and gradual progreſs, aided by a combination of other favouring circumſtances.

No prudent man, however ſure of his principles, will venture to iſſue, prophecies upon the courſe of human events; but I ſee much ſolid ground to hope that an amicable diſcuſſion between the two kingdoms, promoted with activity, moderated by temper, and guided by diſcretion, may tend to convey eſſential benefits to Ireland, without any permanent diſadvantage to Great Britain. I am unwilling to think, for a moment, that the ſalutary effects of ſuch a diſcuſſion may be fruſtrated by popular impatience and precipitation.

I ſhall ſubjoin * to this Letter a Table of Engliſh

* Appendix, No, I, II, III, IV, V.

Engliſh Acts, reſpecting the trade to and from Ireland; and alſo an account of ſome particulars reſpecting the Courſe of Exchange between Dublin and London, the eſtates of abſentees, and the revenue and expences of the Iriſh Government. I happen to have theſe papers in my poſſeſſion, and they ſeem at leaſt ſufficiently accurate to be of ſome aſſiſtance to your Lordſhip in the conſideration now before you.

I am my dear LORD,

Reſpectfully and affectionately, &c.

W. EDEN.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

ACTS made in ENGLAND, reſtraining TRADE to and from IRELAND.

Sheep, Wool, &c.

PROHIBITS the exportation of rams, ſheep, or lambs alive, from England or Ireland. — 8 Eliz. c. 8.

Prohibit the exportation of ſheep-wool, wool-fells, mortlings, ſhortlings, yarn made of wool, wool-flocks, fullers-earth, and fulling-clay, from England or Ireland. — 12. Car. II. c. 32. 13 & 14 Car. II. c. 18.

Prohibits alſo the exportation of tobacco-pipe clay. — Sect. 8.

Tobacco-pipe clay not to be exported from Great Britain into Ireland. — 9 & 10 W. III. c. 40 ſect. 2.

Prohibit the exportation of wool, woolfells, &c.; and alſo worſted-yarn woollen-yarn, cloth, ſerge, bays, kerſeys, ſays, frizes, druggetts, cloth-ſerges, ſhalloons, or other drapery ſtuffs, or woollen-manufactures from Ireland, *except to Great Britain*, as by liſt No. II. — 10 & 11 W. III. c. 10. 5 Geo. I. c. 11. ſect. 21. 5 Geo. II. c. 21.

Extends the prohibition to coverlids, waddings, or other manufactures made of wool, ſlightly ſtitched or worked together, — 12 Geo. II. c. 21. ſect. 9.

ther, ſo as to be reduced to wool again, and to matraſſes and beds, ſtuffed with combed wool, or wool fit for combing.

Sect. 11. The above articles are not to be laden on board any ſhip bound to foreign parts, or be laden or carried coaſtwiſe from one part of Great Britain or Ireland to another, without a licenſe from the commiſſioners or officers of the cuſtoms, and ſecurity given to land accordingly.

Navigation and Plantations.

12 Car. II. c. 18. ſect. 18. 22 & 23 Car. II. c. 26. ſect. 10 & 11. 7 & 8 W. III. c. 22. ſect. 14 & 15. 3 & 4 Ann, c. 5. ſect. 12. 3 & 4 Ann, c. 10. 8 Geo. I. c. 15. ſect. 24. 8 Geo. I. c. 18. ſect. 22. 4 Geo. II. c. 15. 4 Geo. III. c. 15. ſect. 27. 5 Geo. III. c. 37. ſect. 4.

By theſe acts, the following articles being the growth, product, or manufacture of any Britiſh Plantation in Africa, Aſia, or America, cannot be imported into or landed in Ireland, except they are firſt landed in Great Britain, *viz.* ſugar, tobacco, cotton-wool, indigo, ginger, fuſtic, or other dying wood, Specle or Jamaica wood, rice, melaſſes, tar, pitch, turpentine, maſts, yards and bowſprits, beaver-ſkins, and other furs, copper ore, coffee, pimento, cocoa-nuts, whale-fins, raw ſilk, hides and ſkins, pot and pearl-aſhes, and gum ſenega.

4 Geo. II. c. 15. 7 Geo. III. c. 2.

But all other goods (except hops) of the growth, product, or manufacture of the Plantations, may be imported from thence into Ireland, in Britiſh ſhipping, whereof the maſter, and three-fourths of the mariners are Britiſh.

15 Car. II. c. 7. ſect. 6. 7 & 8 W. III. c. 22. ſect. 2.

Goods the product of Europe, cannot be imported into any Britiſh Plantation, unleſs

lels ſhipped in Great Britain, and carried directly from thence in Britiſh-built ſhipping.

Except ſalt for the fiſheries. Horſes and victual and linen cloth from Ireland, by 3 & 4 Ann, c. 8. and 3 Geo. I. c. 21. Proviſions, and implements for the fiſheries, by 15 Geo. III. c. 31. ſect. 5. Clothing and accoutrements for the army, by 15 Geo. III. c. 45. and other articles of Iriſh manufacture permitted to be exported directly from thence into the Britiſh Plantations, by 18 Geo. III. c. 55. *Vide* No. II.

Salt.

Salt, of or from Ireland, not to be imported into Great Britain, except neceſſary proviſions for the ſhip, or for curing fiſh. 2 & 3 Ann, c. 14.

Hops.

Hops not to be imported into Ireland, except from Great Britain only, and of Britiſh growth. 9 Ann, c. 12. ſect. 27. 5 Geo. II. c. 9. 7 Geo. II. c. 19.

Hops of Britiſh growth, exported to Ireland, not to drawback the duty. 6 Geo. I. c. 11. ſect. 39.

Eaſt India Goods.

Wrought ſilks, bengals and ſtuffs mixed with ſilk, and herba muſlins and other callicoes of the manufacture of Perſia, China, or Eaſt India, are not to be imported into Ireland, except from Great Britain. 5 Geo. I. c. 11. ſect. 12.

7 Geo. I. c 21. ſect. 9. No commodity of the growth, product, or manufacture of the Eaſt Indies, and other places beyond the Cape of Good Hope, is to be imported into Ireland, except from Great Britain, in ſhips navigated according to law.

Rum, Spirits, and Sugar, &c.

6 Geo. II. c. 13. ſect. 4. Sugars, panelles, ſyrups, or melaſſes, of the growth, product, or manufacture of any colonies in America, and rum or ſpirits of America (except of the growth or manufacture of the Britiſh ſugar colonies there), are not to be imported into Ireland, unleſs ſhipped in Great Britain, in ſhips navigated according to law.

Confirmed, as to ſugar, by 12 Geo. II. c. 30. ſect. 16. and by 4 Geo. III. c. 15. ſect. 19.

5 Geo. III. c. 43. ſect. 30. Brandy, rum, or other ſpirits, not to be exported from Ireland in ſhips under 100 tons burthen.

12 Geo. III. c. 55. ſect. 1. Rum, ſugar, coffee, or any goods which are by law prohibited to be imported from Ireland into Great Britain, are not to be exported, or entered for exportation, from Ireland to Great Britain.

Sect. 5. Rum or ſpirits of the Britiſh Colonies or Plantations in America, are not to be imported into Ireland in any ſhip under 70 tons burthen, either from the Colonies or from Great Britain; and foreign Brandy, or other ſpirits, from any other place whatſoever,

whatſoever, are not to be imported in ſhips under 100 tons.

No part of the old ſubſidy to be drawn back for any ſugars of the growth, produce, or manufacture of any foreign Colony, or Plantation not under the dominion of his Majeſty, which ſhall be exported from Great Britain to Ireland. 12 Geo. III. c. 60. ſect. 6.

Glaſs.

No glaſs of any kind or denomination, other than the manufacture of Great Britain, may be imported into Ireland. 19 Geo. II. c. 12. ſect. 22.

No glaſs of any kind may be exported from Ireland, or laden on any horſe, carriage or veſſel, with intent to be ſo exported. Sect. 24.

Sail-cloth.

An additional duty was laid upon all canvas or ſail-cloth, the manufacture of Ireland, imported into Great Britain during the continuance of a bounty granted in Ireland, by an act 19 Geo. II. upon the exportation of ſail-cloth from that kingdom, *viz.* for ſail-cloth of the value of 14 *d.* *per* yard, and upwards, 4 *d.* *per* yard. 23 Geo. II. c. 22. ſect. 1.

Of 10*d.* and under 14*d.* *per* yard, 2 *d.*

Corn.

Corn exported from Great Britain or Ireland, to the Iſle of Man, not to be allowed any bounty. 5 Geo. III. c. 30. ſect. 11.

Cambricks

Cambricks or Lawns.

7 Geo. III. c. 43. ſect. 5. No cambrick or lawn whatſoever to be imported from Ireland into any part of Great Britain, until the importation of Cambricks and French lawns into Ireland ſhall be prohibited by law.

Tobacco.

19 Geo. III. c. 35. ſect. 2. Tobacco, the growth, product, or manufacture of Ireland, not to be exported from thence to any place except Great Britain.

Duties.

12 Car. II. c. 4. By the book of rates and ſubſequent acts, all goods imported into Great Britain from Ireland, unleſs in particular caſes where Ireland is expreſsly excepted (*Vide* No. II.), are liable to the ſame duties as the like goods are chargeable with if imported from other foreign parts.

The following articles may be imported from Ireland, but are ſubject to duties which are equal to a prohibition, *viz.*

	The duty.			
Woollen cloths,	1	12	$8\frac{14}{20}$	*per* yard.
——— ſtuffs,	0	4	9	*per* yard.
Tallow candles,	1	4	$1\frac{3}{20}$	*per* cwt.
Sope, - -	1	13	$9\frac{6}{20}$	*per* cwt.

No. II.

ACTS made in ENGLAND in favour of TRADE to and from IRELAND.

Wool, Woollen, and other Manufactures.

PERMITS the importation of woollen cloths, woollen caps, andirons, and a great variety of enumerated manufactures in leather, iron, ſteel, &c. to be ſold in this kingdom, if made and wrought in Ireland; which are prohibited to be ſo imported from other parts. 3 Edw. IV. c. 4.

Permits the importation of woollen and bay-yarn into Great Britain from Ireland, duty-free. 12 Geo. II. c. 21. ſect. 1.

And ſeveral ſubſequent acts permitted the exportation of raw and manufactured wool from particular ports in Ireland to particular ports in England, enumerated in the acts upon the ſecurity to land it accordingly, and other regulations preſcribed by the 10 & 11 W. III. c. 10.—but, 1 W. & M. c. 32. ſect. 6. 7 & 8 W. III. c. 28. ſect. 5. 10 & 11 W. III. c. 10.

Permits wool, woollen, or bay-yarn, woolfells, ſhortlings, mortlings, wool-flocks, and worſted-yarn, to be exported from any port in Ireland to any port in Great Britain, under the ſecurity and regulations preſcribed 26 Geo. II. c. 11.

preſcribed by 10 & 11 W. III. c. 10. for the former articles.

15 Geo. III. c. 45. Clothing and accoutrements, the produce of Great Britain or Ireland, for the uſe of his Majeſty's forces abroad, paid in part out of the Iriſh revenue, may be exported from Ireland.

Navigation and Plantations.

12 Car. II. c. 18. 7 & 8 W. III. c. 22. Ships built in Ireland, navigated with the people thereof, are deemed Britiſh, and qualified to trade to and from the Britiſh Plantations.

12 Car. II. c. 18. ſect. 7. 13 & 14 Car. II. c. 11. ſect. 6. Ships built in Ireland, and navigated with his Majeſty's ſubjects of Ireland, are intitled to the ſame abatement and privileges to which importers or exporters of goods in Britiſh-built ſhips are intitled by the book of rates.

18 Geo. III. c. 55. ſect. 9. Ships built in Ireland and owned by his Majeſty's ſubjects reſiding in any part of the Britiſh dominions in Europe, to be deemed Britiſh built, and intitled to the like privileges and advantages in all reſpects, as ſhips built in Great Britain; and

Ships belonging to any of his Majeſty's ſubjects reſiding in Ireland, and not Britiſh built, are to be intitled to the ſame privileges and advantages in all parts of his Majeſty's dominions, as ſhips belonging to his Majeſty's ſubjects reſiding in Great Britain, and not Britiſh or Iriſh built, are intitled to.

Permits

Permits the exportation of ſervants, horſes, and victual from Ireland to the Britiſh Plantations. 15 Car. II. c. 7. ſect. 7.

Permit the importation of linen cloth of and from Ireland, into the Britiſh Plantations. 3 & 4 Ann, c. 8. 3 Geo. I. c. 21. ſect. 1.

Makes it lawful to export, under certain regulations, directly from Ireland, into the Britiſh Plantations in America or the Weſt Indies, or any Britiſh ſettlement on the coaſt of Africa. 18 Geo. III. c. 55. ſect. 1.

Any goods the produce or manufacture of Ireland, except wool and woollen-manufactures, cotton-manufactures;

Hats, glaſs, hops, gunpowder and coals;

And all goods of the growth, product, or manufacture of Great Britain, legally imported from thence into Ireland, except woollen-manufactures and glaſs;

And all foreign certificate goods, legally imported from Great Britain into Ireland;

But not to extend to foreign linen painted, &c. in Ireland,

Nor to bar-iron, iron ſlit or rolled, plated or tinned, nor any manufactured iron-wares, till a duty is impoſed thereon in Ireland;

Nor to any ſuch articles, if a bounty or premium is allowed thereon:

And not to take place with reſpect to goods the manufacture of Ireland, except and until they are chargeable with duties to as great an amount as the like goods are charged

charged with an exportation from Great Britain.

4 Geo. II. c. 15.
5 Geo. II. c. 9.
7 Geo. III. c. 2.

Permit the importation of all non-enumerated goods (except hops) of the growth, product, or manufacture of the Britiſh Plantations, directly from thence into Ireland.

Hemp, Flax, Linen, and Cotton.

7 & 8 W. III. c. 39.
16 Geo. II. c. 26. ſect. 6.

Hemp and flax, and any manufacture made thereof in Ireland, may be imported into Great Britain from thence, free of all duties, upon certificate verifying the manufacture, &c.

3 Geo. I. c. 21. ſect. 2.

All linen made in Ireland, and imported into Great Britain, may be again exported to any Britiſh Plantation in America, without payment of any duty whatſoever.

18 Geo. III. c. 56.

Cotton yarn, the manufacture of Ireland, may be imported into Great Britain duty free.

Other Articles which are permitted to be imported into Great Britain from Ireland, or exported duty-free, viz.

6 Geo. III. c. 46. ſect. 5.

Gum ſenega, or gum arabic; 30 tons may be exported annually from Great Britain to Ireland duty-free, by licence from the Treaſury, to be uſed in the linen manufactures of that kingdom.

9 Geo. III. c. 39.
14 Geo. III. c. 86.

Raw hides of ſteers, cows, or any other cattle (except horſes, mares, or geldings), and calve ſkins, or goat ſkins, raw or undreſſed, may be imported into Great Britain from Ireland, duty-free.

Rape

Rape ſeed and rape cakes, may be imported into Great Britain from Ireland, duty free. — 15 Geo. III. c. 34.

Salted beef, pork, bacon, and butter, and cattle, the laws permitting the importation from Ireland into Great Britain duty-free, are made perpetual. — 16 Geo. III. c. 8.

Permit the importation of tallow, hog's lard, and greaſe, duty-free, till the 25th March 1782, from any place. — 7 Geo. III. c. 12. continued by 19 Geo. III. c. 22. ſect. 4.

Tea.

Tea exported to Ireland as merchandize, to drawback the whole cuſtoms, ſubject to the regulations preſcribed by 12 Geo. III. c. 60. and 16 Geo. III. c. 51. — 17 Geo. III. c. 27.

Bounties granted and payable in Great Britain, for encouraging the Linen Manufactures.

Grant the ſame bounty on Iriſh linen made of hemp or flax, exported from Great Britain, as is allowed on Britiſh linen exported, viz. — 29 Geo. II. c. 15. 19 Geo. III. c. 27.

For every yard 25 inches broad, and under the value of 5d. per yard, -	0	0	0½
Of the value of 5d. and under 6d. per yard, - -	0	0	1
Of the value of 6d. and not exceeding 1s. 6d. per yard, - - -	0	0	1½

Grant an additional bounty of 5s. per hogſhead upon flax-ſeed imported into Ireland, for which a bounty is allowed in that kingdom, by acts made there in the third and ſixteenth years of his Majeſty. — 15 Geo. III. c. 45. ſect. 3. 16 Geo. III. c. 41.

19 Geo. III. c. 37. Grants the following bounties on hemp, the growth of Ireland, imported from thence into Great Britain.

From { 24 June 1779 / 24 June 1786 / 24 June 1793 } to { 24 June 1786, 8l. / 24 June 1793, 6l. / 24 June 1800, 4l. } per Ton.

Bounties, &c. for the Encouragement of the Fiſheries.

15 Geo. III. c. 31. ſect. 1. Britiſh-built ſhips, owned by his Majeſty's ſubjects reſiding in Great Britain or Ireland, &c. catching a certain number of fiſh on the Banks of Newfoundland, and arriving with the ſame at Newfoundland, under the regulations preſcribed in the Act, are to be allowed,

To the 25 veſſels firſt arriving, 40l. each
100 next arriving, - 20l. each
100 next arriving, - 10l. each
} annually, for 11 years.

Sect. 3. Britiſh-built ſhips owned by his Majeſty's ſubjects, reſiding in Great Britain or Ireland, proceeding from thence and killing one whale, at leaſt, in the Gulph of St. Lawrence, or on the coaſt of Labrador, Newfoundland, or in any ſeas to the ſouthward of the Greenland ſeas and Davis Streights, and returning within the ſame year to ſome port in England with the oil of ſuch whales ſo taken, are to be allowed for five ſhips, *viz.*

For the ſhip arriving
with the greateſt quantity £. 500
with the next Do. - 400
with the next - - 300
with the next - - 200
with the next - - 100
} in each year, for 11 years.
And the oil to be landed free of duty.

Grants

Grants the ſame bounties to whales ſo taken in the ſeas to the ſouthward of the latitude of forty-four degrees North. 16 Geo. III. c. 47.

Ships fitted out from Ireland in the whale fiſhery, to the Greenland ſeas, Davis Streights, and the adjacent ſeas, under the regulations preſcribed, are to be allowed, on their return to ſome port in Great Britain, 15 Geo. III. c. 31. ſect. 21.

From { 25 Dec. 1775 / 25 Dec. 1776 / 25 Dec. 1781 } to { 25 Dec. 1776, 40s. / 25 Dec. 1781, 30s. / 25 Dec. 1786, 20s. } per Ton.

The above-mentioned bounties for ſhips employed in the whale fiſheries are to be allowed, although the whole and entire property of the ſhips doth not belong to ſome of his Majeſty's ſubjects reſiding in that part of his Majeſty's dominions from whence the ſhip is fitted and cleared out. 18 Geo. III. c. 55. ſect. 8.

His Majeſty's ſubjects reſiding in Ireland may tranſport, directly from thence to Newfoundland, or to any part of America where the fiſhery is carried on, proviſions, hooks, lines, netting, or other tools or implements neceſſary for the fiſhery, being the product and manufacture of Great Britain or Ireland. 15 Geo. III. c. 31. ſect. 5.

Oil, blubber, or whale fins, taken in any part of the ocean by, and imported in any ſhip belonging to, his Majeſty's ſubjects of Great Britain or Ireland, to be imported duty-free. Sect. 9.

Seal ſkins, raw and undreſſed, caught by the crew of any veſſel belonging to, and fitted out from, Great Britain or Ireland, may be imported duty-free. Sect. 10.

Tobacco.

Tobacco.

6 Geo. I. c. 21. ſect. 48. Tobacco exported to Ireland, if leſs appears to be landed than ſhipped in Great Britain, an allowance not exceeding Two per cent. may be made for waſte during the voyage.

19 Geo. III. c. 35. Repeals the Acts 12 and 15 Car. II. and any other Act which prohibits or reſtrains the ſetting, planting, or improving, to grow, making, or curing tobacco, either in ſeed, plant, or otherwiſe, in Ireland.

No. III.

Courſe of Exchange.

THE par between London and Dublin is $8\frac{1}{3}$ *per cent.*—100*l.* Britiſh being worth 108*l.* 6*s.* 8*d.* Iriſh.

During the years 1778 and 1779, the Exchange of Dublin on London has varied from $5\frac{1}{4}$ to $9\frac{1}{8}$—October 27, 1779, it was at $6\frac{1}{4}$:

This is remarkably low; and the following cauſes are aſſigned for its being ſo much in favour of Ireland:

1. A large importation of ſpecie, by the loans negociated with monied people, &c. in England, and by the late remittance to Ireland for the public ſervice.

2. The non-payment of rents, which has kept within Ireland much money, that would otherwiſe have been remitted to abſentees.

3. The non-importation agreements, and the large exports in the proviſion trade, and in the linens.

Prices of Bullion.

Gold, in October 1779, was at 4*l.* *per* ounce in Dublin. The uſual price had been from 4*l.* 1*s.* to 4*l.* 2*s.* The fall is imputed to the exchange, which ſufficiently accounts for it.

Silver, in October 1779, was at 5*s.* 6*d.* *per* ounce. The medium price had been 5*s.* 10*d.* This is imputed to the ſelling more old plate, and to the manufacturing leſs new plate, than uſual.

No. IV.

ACcording to an abſtract of a liſt of the eſtates of abſentees, publiſhed in January 1769,

The eſtates of thoſe who live conſtantly abroad, and are ſeldom or never in Ireland, amount to 371,900*l.*

And the eſtates of thoſe who live generally abroad, and viſit Ireland occaſionally, amount to 117,800*l.*

No. V.

A Two years average eſtimate of the revenue, and expence of the Iriſh Government, according to late experience.

	£.	
Hereditary Revenue, groſs—about	1,200,000	
Old additional Duties—about	380,000	
New additional Duties—about	140,000	
Stamp Duties—about - -	40,000	
Vice-Treaſurers, and Pells, ancient Fees and Salaries—about -	40,000	
		£. 1,800,000
Deduct		
Expence of Management—about	483,000	
Drawbacks, &c.—about -	3,000	
Expence attending Stamp Duties—about	14,000	
		500,000
Nett Produce		£. 1,300,000
Expences.		
Civil Liſt—about -	330,000	
Military Eſtabliſhment—about	938,000	
Extraordinary Expences—about	432,000	
Total Expence	£. 1,700,000	

FINIS.

No. V.

A Two years average climate of the revenue, and expence of the Irish Government, according to late experience.

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